

(Continued from First page.)

may abound in your own sense"—referring to the well-known Latin saying, *Unusquisque abundet in sensu suo*. I had told Cardinal Rampolla that my affairs made me desire to make my stay in Rome as brief as possible. With reference to this the Pope said, "As you tell of your necessities, I of course cannot oppose your wishes." He paternally exhorted me, whatever I should do, always to lead a regular life. His words were, "You will lead a regular life?" to which I replied, "Holy Father, I have always tried to do so, even while I was excommunicated." The Pope then said, "Are you now satisfied?" I replied, "Yes, Holy Father, and I thank you for your Holiness, and I beg you to bless me." He laid his right hand affectionately upon my head and I again asked him to bless me, whereupon he raised his right arm, and, making the sign of the cross over me, he repeated the liturgical words of the benediction. I had never seen Leo XIII. before. I was not overawed by his majesty, which is great, but was rather won by his evident desire to show to me truly paternal kindness. I remained kneeling during the interview, close to him and leaning with my hands on his chair. I was impressed with his dominant intellectuality, which seems to be accompanied with equal vigor of will, although he is very thin and white, his face being nearly as white as his hair and his cassock. I thought him all mind and soul, in a body that one might almost call transparent.

It is a matter of rejoicing for all the people of the Church and for all right-minded men, who cannot but commend the broad and liberal policies of the aged Pontiff, that he seems to grow in breadth and vigor as he ages. It is matter of bitter regret that any of those who hold high office by his favor, and who should be foremost in seconding and promoting his benevolent designs, should add to his cares and burdens by their petty intrigues to thwart those designs. They may take my word for it that there was a resonance in his voice and a flash in his eye in parts of his conversation with me that made it perfectly clear that they cannot oppose his wishes except at the greatest peril to themselves.

EDWARD MCGLYNN.

SHED THEIR COATS AND ATE THEM.

Interesting Proceedings of Two of the Largest Snakes in America.

The two largest pythons which were imported from India for the Zoological Garden have made themselves at home in their new quarters. They are said to be the largest reptiles in this country, and naturally attract considerable attention. They had only been here two weeks when both snakes underwent a change. They became droopy, and it was seen that they had begun to shed their skins.

The shedding process is about at an end now, but the manner in which the snakes accomplished the greater part of the job is wonderful. The largest python measures sixteen feet and the other twelve. They are males and have mouths like cellar doors that are filled with terrible fangs. On Monday last the big snake, which had eaten nothing for three weeks because he was shedding his coat, got a move on himself and climbed one of the small trees, and coiled all around the limbs. Then he rubbed his head and neck violently against the branches in every direction, and gradually loosened the old cuticle from around his head, mouth and neck.

In the mean time the other snake was not idle. It, too, coiled around the tree, and, raising its head, took hold of its big brother's neck, and by careful manipulation loosened the skin from the head and neck for about a foot down. Then it took hold of the loosened skin, and the keepers and spectators who were watching the proceedings saw what was going to happen. With its head and neck free, the big snake could help in the shedding operation, and it twisted around the tree near the top and began to pull away from the smaller snake at top speed. Inch by inch the old skin was released and the bright colors of the new cuticle came in view. It took nearly an hour to get about half of the body free from the old covering, and then both snakes rested. The skin was pulled back just as one would turn a glove inside out, and gave the reptile a peculiar appearance.

When the snakes resumed their job they employed different tactics. The larger snake climbed higher and the other made itself fast lower down the tree. The smaller one took hold of the skin and pulled it for all it was worth, until all of the covering, with the exception of about two feet from the big snake's tail, was loose.

Then a most wonderful thing happened. The big snake's head was at the top of the tree and he hadn't been paying much attention to the goings on at the other end of his body. When the smaller snake stopped pulling the big one looked down and saw that something was wrong. His eyes glistened, and reaching down he grabbed a mouthful of his own covering and proceeded to finish the job. It was done with despatch and ease. The big snake seemed proud of his new suit and wriggled all around the case and admired himself for some time. Then to the astonishment of the watchers the smaller snake climbed the tree and went through the same performance, assisted by the larger one.

After both reptiles were free from the old skins they made a meal of them and each drank about a gallon of water to wash down the repast. The keepers say it is no unusual thing for small snakes to get rid of their old skins in this way, but they never heard of large snakes, like the python or boa, doing it.

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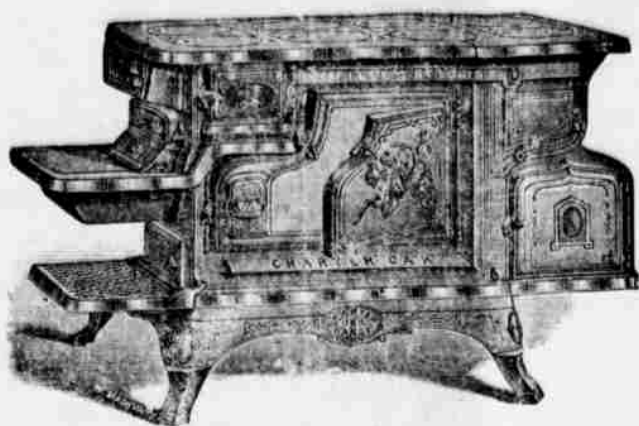
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